



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Canyon National Park

PO Box 129
Grand Canyon, AZ 86023

928 638-7779 phone
928 638-7609 fax
www.nps.gov/grca

Grand Canyon News Release

Release date: Immediate

Contact(s): Maureen Oltrogge

Phone number: 928-638-7779

Date: October 5, 2007

Recent Wet Weather Has Impacted Planned Prescribed Fires and the Roosevelt Wildland Fire Use Fire

Grand Canyon, AZ- Grand Canyon National Park Fire Managers have determined that the recent precipitation has created conditions unfavorable for several planned prescribed fires and rendered the Roosevelt Wildland Fire Use Fire on the North Rim inactive.

The Roosevelt Fire was ignited by a lightning strike and was first discovered on July 19, 2007 and has grown to approximately 5000 acres. This fire met the criteria for a Wildland Fire Use fire and has been allowed to burn naturally while being monitored by fire professionals. This fire has been burning in a fire dependant ponderosa pine and mixed conifer forest.

Wildland Fire Use is a management strategy that allows some naturally ignited fires to burn when weather conditions are favorable. This natural fire occurrence benefits the ecosystem by providing diversity which benefits plant and wildlife and by reducing dead forest material to ash, releasing soil nutrients.

Due to the inactivity of the Roosevelt Fire, the Cape Royal Road, the Cape Final Trail, and the Ken Patrick Trail, which have been closed intermittently to allow the Roosevelt Fire to burn, have been reopened.

Fire managers will continue to monitor fuel moisture and weather conditions over the next several weeks to determine if conditions will be favorable for several planned prescribed fires. Prescribed fires are ignited when environmental factors such as wind, temperature, and relative humidity are favorable, in order to meet specific resource objectives. They are one of the most effective tools available to resource managers for restoring fire-dependant ecosystems. The purpose of these fires is to achieve ecosystem stewardship goals that include reducing hazardous fuels that can lead to destructive wildfires; sustaining ecological processes like nutrient and biomass recycling; balancing plant regeneration and mortality; and providing a diversity of habitats for native plants and animals.

For further information please call 928-638-7819. You may also visit Grand Canyon's web site at www.nps.gov/grca/.

-NPS-